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1. THE 77TH IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS

The World Library and Information Congress 2011, 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, will take place in Puerto Rico, in the heart of the city of San Juan, in the Puerto Rico Convention Centre, from 13 to 18 August 2011.

Standing Committee and Caucus meetings are planned on Saturday 13 August, while the Opening Ceremony and the Exhibition Opening will take place on Sunday 14 August.

The chosen theme for the conference is "Libraries beyond libraries: Integration, Innovation and Information for all". A large number of IFLA regional or specialized Sections, as well as Special interest Groups, will contribute to the main programme by holding sessions on relevant topics throughout the week.

- The Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments will hold its Open Session at the World Library and Information Congress on Sunday 14 August from 13:45 to 15:45, under the theme " *Making the case for investing in libraries and research services*". This program will be presented in more detail and with updates on the <http://iflaparl2011.org/> website.
- The Parliamentary Section will also run a Session together with the Knowledge Management Section on Tuesday 16 August from 16:00 to 18:00. The Session will have the format of a *Knowledge Café*.

The World Library and Information Congress will as usual be an important occasion to meet librarians and professionals from all kind of libraries and to share knowledge and develop professional skills in a wide range of fields related to libraries work .

All information on the Congress program, registration procedures and practical arrangements, as well as on news on satellite and side events, can be found on the IFLA website at : <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla77>

2. THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

In conjunction with the World Library and Information Congress 2011, 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments has been planning its annual activities and specialized meeting for the year 2011, that will take place in San Juan, generously hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico.

All information on the Congress program, registration procedures and practical arrangements, as well as news on satellite and side events, can now be found on the website at <http://www.iflaparl2011.org/>

The Section wishes to express gratitude to the Legislature and looks forward to visiting the Congress building and learn about its services and activities.

A small group of Section members, coordinated by our Chair, Moira Fraser, has been working on the conference organization and on planning an interesting program both for our off site specialized events and for the Open Session to be held during the general Conference in the main conference venue.

This has been a challenging experience for the Section that had no previous personal contact in Puerto Rico. No plan would have been possible without the crucial support of Ellie Valentine and Robert Newlen, Section Standing Committee members, who went to San Juan on behalf of the Section and established direct contact with our hosts, visited the city and provided all the needed information and concrete support to organize the event.

We sincerely take this opportunity to thank them for this.

Here is the greeting message Ellie and Robert have for us, full of interesting information for all who wish to join the event in San Juan.

"Greetings from San Juan!"

During the Gothenburg meetings, the Section discussed what needed to be done to organize the 2011 meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ellie Valentine and I decided that we would visit San Juan in December 2010 to confirm a space and make arrangements for our August offsite conference meetings and pre-conference training. A tough assignment, but someone had to do it.

Neither of us had been to Puerto Rico previously and both of us were very impressed. Through our wonderful San Juan contact whom we met on Gothenburg, Pedro Padilla of the University of Puerto Rico Law School Library, we were provided an introduction to the staff of the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly.

We were graciously received by Ms. Maria del Mar Ortiz Rivera, Head Office of Legislative Services (OSL LAPR) who Carlos Rene Rodriguez Miranda, the Head of the Suarez, Director of the Perez, the Head of ICT Historian of Puerto Rico.



introduced her team, including Head of the Library; Hilda Blanch Cultural Affairs; Adrian Panhenco Office Tourism; Andres Colon Systems; Luis E. Gonzales Vales,

After meeting to discuss of the Section and were led on a tour of the see the facilities and determine which would be most appropriate for our meetings.

the organization of the meetings training day opportunities, we LAPR by Mr. Gonzales Vales to

The capitol building, completed in 1929, is a spectacular edifice uniquely situated in the city with a view of the ocean (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/prvi/pr5.html>).



We will be holding plenary meetings in a very historic room in the capitol building



and breakout sessions will be held in adjacent office buildings. A special tour of the capitol building will be incorporated into the program of the Section's conference meetings.

HOTELS

As to hotels, Ellie and I stayed at the Hilton El Caribe. It is located right on the water and we had great views of the ocean (<http://www.hiltoncaribbean.com/index.php?destination=sanjuan>).

With the exception of the Sheraton at the convention center, all other hotels will require a bus ride to the convention center and the legislature. We understand that shuttles will run continuously between the hotels and the convention center.

A particularly desirable area to stay in is the Condado which is right on the beach. There are many hotels, restaurants, shops, and bars in this neighbourhood. One hotel we especially liked is La Concha (<http://www.laconcharesort.com/>). For architecture buffs, this is a hotel designed by the late Morris Lapidus, also architect of Miami's Fontainebleau Hotel. La Concha had a major renovation and it is spectacular. Ellie and I had dinner in their seaside restaurant which is in the shape of a scallop shell - you have to see it to believe it - and the food was fabulous. Both of us made reservations to stay there so we will see you poolside. There are, of course, other options which we explored and of the IFLA hotels (shuttle bus transport to the conference center would be available) we have heard that these are good value-for-money options located in Condado district:

San Juan Park Hotel; Holiday Inn Express San Juan; San Juan Beach Hotel; Doubletree by Hilton San Juan; Verdanza Hotel San Juan; Quality Inn El Portal; Courtyard By Marriott San Juan Isla Verde

Taxis are easily available and costs are about \$15 from most of these hotels to the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico (we will also investigate public transport and other options for our training day August 12).

SIGHTSEEING

We felt it our duty to do some sightseeing so we could report back to you. We took a tour of Fort San Cristobal near Old San Juan and really enjoyed it. We would have liked to see Fort San Felipe Del Morro as well.



We also enjoyed walking around Old San Juan and came back much poorer because of it. Ellie found a wonderful sculpture in one of the many charming art galleries. We also sacrificed for you, dear reader, and took a tour of the Bacardi rum plant. The tour was fun and at the end you can sample a whole range of rum drinks. I recall a nap shortly after that....

To sum it all up, we think you will really enjoy San Juan. Everyone was friendly and helpful and our hosts at the Puerto Rican legislature could not have been nicer. We are really looking forward to going back in August.

Robert Newlen, Ellie Valentine

Thank you to Ellie and to Robert for what they have been doing to make this year's event possible!

We encourage you to attend our meeting!

The program will provide interesting views on how we all work to make sure our parliaments are well informed. Also, we will give special attention to how we work together and build effective networks and associations. As requested by several Section members, time slots will be dedicated to regional groups and networks of parliamentary library and research services around the world.

Once again, please stay informed on the program and on all relevant information regarding the Section activities in Puerto Rico through the dedicated website <http://iflaparl2011.org/en/>

For further information, please contact preifla2011@iflaparl2011.org

3. TRAINING / GLOBAL CENTRE FOR ICT IN PARLIAMENT

During the last few years the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments has been building a stable and fruitful working relationship with the [Global Centre for ICT in Parliament](#), launched by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the occasion of the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis in 2005.

Following previous joint initiative and successful cooperation, the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for parliaments and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, together this year with the Office of Legislative Services of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico, will hold a one-day training focusing on the use of new technologies and on international standards to enhance the capacity of parliamentary libraries to respond to parliaments' information needs.

In particular, the meeting will aim at identifying those technologies and tools that can support the development and management of digital resources in parliamentary libraries to improve the delivery of information services to users – i.e. members, staff and citizens – as well as good practices in the area of IT support to libraries.

The event, to be held at the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico, is directed at heads of parliamentary libraries and research services from parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean and builds on the outcome of the International Workshop organized in January 2011 by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and the National Congress of Chile, in cooperation with the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments, in the Chilean Congress in Valparaiso.

Please check for further information on the training event on the Section conference website at <http://iflaparl2011.org/en/>

Further questions can be addressed at info@ictparliament.org

The training is run as a separate program, held on the eve of the Section specialized meeting and targeting, upon invitation, heads of parliamentary libraries and research services from Latin America and the Caribbean. However, should you be interested in attending the training, at your expenses, please contact us with your request.

4. SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OFFICERS ELECTION

The Section Standing Committee meetings will take place as follows:

- **SCI : Saturday 13 August, 15:45-17.15.**

This SC meeting will be hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico just after the closure of the conference day.

- **SCII : Tuesday 16 August, 13:15-14.45.**

This SC meeting will take place at the IFLA Congress venue, in the Puerto Rico Convention Centre (*room: 102a*). We remind everybody that to enter the main Congress venue, full or one day registration to the IFLA Congress is required.

The term of the current **Officers of the Section** will expire next August.

New Officers will be elected during SC I by the Standing Committee amongst its members for the term 2011-2013.

In addition to SC members, the meetings can be attended by observers. We encourage Section members and people involved in our work to ask to participate the meetings as observers!

5. SUMMARY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF THE IFLA PARLIAMENTARY SECTION IN PUERTO RICO

Friday 12 August- LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO

09:00 -18:00 Training of the Global Centre for ICT for Parliament (separate program)

18:00 - 20:00 Opening Reception hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico

Saturday 13 August - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO

08:00 – 08:45 Registration of participants

08:45 - 10:15 Tour of the Legislative Assembly

10:30 – 15:15 Pre- Conference Sessions

15:45 - 17:15 Section Standing Committee meeting I

Sunday 14 August - IFLA MAIN CONFERENCE VENUE

10:30 – 12:00 IFLA General Conference Opening Session (*room: Grand Salon A*)

13:45 - 15:45 Library and Research Services for Parliaments - Open Session (*room: Grand Salon B*)

16:00 - 18:00 Exhibition opening and opening party (*Exhibition Hall B*)

Monday 15 August - LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO

09:00 – 16: 30 Management Workshop day

16:30 -18:00 Walking Tour of Cristobel Fort

18:30 - 20:30 Dinner Hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico

Tuesday 16 August - IFLA MAIN CONFERENCE VENUE

13:15 – 14:45 Section Standing Committee meeting II (*room: 102a*)

16:00 – 18:00 Library and Research Services for Parliaments with Knowledge Management Section “Knowledge Café” (*room 208*)